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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/996,711	11/30/2001	Roland Boss	10007748-1	3684

7590

03/31/2003

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EXAMINER

NGO, HOANG X

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2852

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Handwritten signature or mark

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/996,711

Applicant(s)

BOSS, ROLAND

Examiner

Hoang Ngo

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 9-11, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Azar et al.

Azar et al disclose a fuser assembly 15 comprising a fuser roller 23 (Fig. 2) having a heat absorptive outer layer 28 (col. 5, lines 3-30) on an inner core 27 of a thermally isolating material (col. 4, lines 53-64), a radiant heating element adjacent and externally to the outer layer of the roller (col. 4, lines 21-26).

Azar et al further disclose the outer layer comprising an interior metallic layer and an exterior release layer and having a thickness of less than 3 millimeters (col. 5, lines 3-30), and a pressure roller 24 disposed adjacent to the fuser roller.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4-6 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azar et al in view of Hartley et al.

As discussed above, Azar et al disclose every aspect of Applicant's claimed invention except for a transducer and controller to detect and maintain the temperature of the fuser roller to a predetermined level.

Hartley et al disclose a transducer 39 (col. 7, line 27) and controller 37 for the purpose of detecting and maintaining a desired surface temperature on a fuser roller (col. 7, lines 27-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Hartley et al to the fixing device of Azar et al so that the surface temperature on the fixing roller can be maintained at a desired level.

5. Claims 7-8, 12, and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azar et al in view of Onishi et al.

As discussed above, Azar et al disclose every aspect of Applicant's claimed invention except for a heat reflector to direct at least a portion of heat radiated by a heat array toward the fusing roller and a printing media to preheat the printing media prior to engaging the fusing roller.

Onishi et al disclose a heat reflector 71a (Fig. 2) for directing a portion of heat radiated by a heat array 71 toward a fusing roller 50 and a printing media 40 prior engaging with the fusing roller.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Onishi et al into the fixing device of Azar et al so that adequate fixing heating can be applied to fuse the toner on the printing media.

Response to Arguments

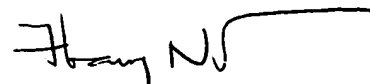
6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang Ngo whose telephone number is (703) 308-0216. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on (703) 308-1373. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



Hoang Ngo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

March 25, 2003